



For Immediate Release

IDOC Partners with CMS to Deliver Substance Abuse Services

INDIANAPOLIS (August 13, 2010) - The Indiana Department of Correction (IDOC) announced today that it will expand its partnership with Correctional Medical Services (CMS) to include substance abuse programming and services. CMS is the current health care provider for the IDOC.

This partnership will include a collaborative approach to integrating mental health services with substance abuse programming, which are often co-occurring issues for offenders. IDOC statistics confirm that over 50% of Indiana's inmate population with substance abuse dependence also experience mental health disorder. Concurrently, inmates with a mental illness are at increased risk for substance abuse dependency.

The benefits of this comprehensive program will afford all health care providers the ability to access a patient's complete medical, mental health and substance abuse records and cross train staff to address co-occurring disorders.

Substance abuse programs that are currently offered at IDOC facilities such as Therapeutic Communities, Clean Lifestyles Is Freedom Forever (CLIFF), and Growth, Integrity, and Purpose (GRIP) will now be provided by CMS.

IDOC Commissioner Buss stated, "CMS is highly experienced in prevention and intervention for co-occurring disorders. By combining services, the Department will be able to continue its award winning substance abuse services with the added benefit of improving the level of service to offenders, increasing their chances of returning to their communities as rehabilitated, law-abiding citizens."

All 92 of the Department's substance abuse counselors will be interviewed for employment with CMS. The Department anticipates a cost avoidance benefit as a result of the lower cost health and other benefits this employer is able to provide its staff. CMS will also work toward helping employees meet new state credentialing requirements.

The start-up date for new services is currently set for September 1, 2010. There will be no disruption in current substance abuse programming.

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